

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY : Communist China

REPORT NO. _____
RESPONSIVE TO: STATINTL

SUBJECT : EXPANSION OF NCNA PRESS SERVICES IN ENGLISH MORSE.

PLACE ACQUIRED BY SOURCE : Santa Rosa, California

DATE ACQUIRED BY SOURCE : 15 January 1956

DATE OF INFORMATION : 15 January 1956

DATE DISTR. 1 Feb '56

NO. OF PAGES 2

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW) _____

SUPP. TO
REPORT NO. _____

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STATINTL PER REGRADING
BULLETIN NO. 20

The New China News Agency--NCNA--announced that effective 18 January it will separate and expand its English Morse service to Europe, Southeast Asia and North America. It will transmit separate services to Europe totalling 13 hours daily; to Southeast Asia totalling 15½ hours daily; and to North America totalling 10½ hours daily.

The new total of transmission hours (38 hours, 45 minutes) represents a daily increase of 28 hours and 45 minutes over the previous daily total of 10 hours, which was beamed simultaneously to all three areas. This virtually quadruples the present output.

The amount of repeat material will probably be great, but the length of the Southeast Asia service would indicate that this service will contain a substantial amount of material not included in the shorter European and North American services.

Each transmission to Europe will be on three to four frequencies; transmissions to Southeast Asia on from one to three frequencies; and to North America on only one frequency.

COMMENT: The upcoming change of schedule represents the first large-scale expansion of the English language press service in several years and appears related to other recent changes made by NCNA. On 1 January 1956 NCNA discontinued the use of radiotelegraph for its Chinese Numeral Code transmissions, substituting hellschreiber exclusively. Since maintenance of the new English schedule will require a maximum of eight transmitters, as compared with five for the current schedule, it is probable that at least some of the transmitters formerly employed in domestic numeral code morse transmission are being diverted to the international English morse service.

NCNA English Morse transmissions began from Yenai in September 1944 with a transmission of 1½ to 3 hours daily for North America which was repeated later for Europe and Southeast Asia. A low-powered hand-keyed radiotelegraph transmitter was employed but it achieved fair results in its target areas. Upon the fall of Yenai in 1947, NCNA moved its equipment to a location in North Shensi where it remained until NCNA moved into its Peking headquarters in early 1950. Its service gradually expanded from that date to 10 hours daily, with modern automatically-keyed radiotelegraph equipment being employed on several shortwave frequencies simultaneously beamed to the several world areas.

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